

WSDOT Aviation Monthly Report June 2004

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1. Over 500 Respond to Survey on Airports of Statewide Significance

Recently, WSDOT Aviation sent a survey to aviation customers asking for input on defining airports of statewide significance as part of the Washington Transportation Plan (WTP) update.

When asked to rate criteria for determining airports of statewide significance, at least half of the respondents felt the following criteria should be applied:

- *Close proximity to regional population and business centers (55.3%)*
- *Provides region with transportation link to major urban centers (51.9%)*
- *Accommodates aircraft for all types of emergencies (51.5%).*

When asked to select the four criteria that were the most important to them personally, the top items were:

- *Capable of providing range of aircraft support services, i.e. fuel (53.7%)*
- *Capable of supporting all general aviation activities, including business aircraft (51.2%)*
- *Close proximity to regional population and business centers (44.1%)*
- *Accommodates aircraft for all types of emergency operations (38.5%)*

Eighty-eight percent of respondents represented their interests as general aviation pilots.

2. New Pilot Guides Ready for Distribution

Five thousand updated Pilot's Guides to Washington Airports are now ready for distribution. Over 200 updates were made to the previous guide, which was last updated in 2001. Because of pilot input, the new guide has kept its original format, which includes runway pictures and basic airport information. The new Pilot's Guide is available upon request to registered aviators. A CD-version of the Pilot's Guide is also available upon request.

3. Arlington Fly-in and Air Show July 7 – July 11

Visit with WSDOT Aviation booth! This is the third largest fly-in in the nation, offering all day activities, exhilarating air shows and informative aviation seminars. WSDOT Aviation will give a presentation on Saturday July 10 at 9 a.m. about critical issues affecting state aviation including NASCAR, airport preservation, and the Washington Transportation Plan update. Location: Forum Tent E, Arlington Municipal Airport. For more information on the event, please go to: <http://www.nweaa.org/>

4. WSDOT Reminds Pilots to Check Temporary Flight Restrictions During Busy Summer Flying Season

Fire crews from all over the state are keeping busy due to the drier than normal start to the summer. Over the last four days 47 new fires were reported, mostly in Central and Eastern Washington. Many of these fires are still burning and may require temporary flight restrictions to help provide safe access for helicopter and smoke jumper aircraft. Several temporary flight restrictions were established earlier this month near popular recreational airports.

WSDOT Aviation encourages pilots to check temporary flight restriction status with Flight Service before departing their local airport for other destinations.

More information on temporary flight restrictions, including hourly updates and downloadable sectional charts, is available on the National Interagency Airspace Information web site: <http://airspace.nifc.gov/mapping/nifc/index.cfm>

A link to this site is also available from WSDOT Aviation's web site: www.wsdot.wa.gov/aviation (under "TFR Information").

5. WSDOT Aviation Works with FAA on 2004-2005 Pavement Conditions Study

Over the next year, WSDOT Aviation will work with the FAA and public use airports across the state to inventory and analyze pavement conditions for airport runways, taxiways, and aprons. The study is conducted every 3 to 4 years and will help airports, the state, and the FAA to allocate resources for maintaining and preserving Washington's airports. The final scope and grant authorization should be completed in August.

6. New Aviation High School has Landed!

WSDOT Aviation attended an event at Boeing Field to help celebrate the Highline School District's new Aviation High School. The school is scheduled to open in

September 2004 and will be the first of its kind in the nation. King County Executive Ron Simms spoke at the event and personally congratulated the inaugural class of 2008 for cultivating their passion for aviation. More information about the event is available at:

http://www.metrokc.gov/kcdot/news/2004/nr040701_aviationhs.htm

7. Arlington Airport Commission Passes Resolution Opposing Proposed NASCAR Site

The Arlington Airport Commission notified the City of Arlington and Snohomish County of the decision to oppose the NASCAR site near the airport because of the negative impact on aviation. Airport advocates are concerned about air space closures that will affect a wide range of general aviation aircraft operations at the airport. WSDOT Aviation will draft a letter to local jurisdictions advising them to consider state guidelines on compatible use before siting a NASCAR facility near an airport.

8. WSDOT Coordinates with Media on Air Search and Rescue Operations

Tom Peterson, WSDOT Emergency Services Coordinator, arranged a meeting with Seattle news media helicopter pilots to resolve safety concerns that were raised during recent emergency responses. When media helicopters and search aircraft try to occupy the same airspace at the same time, it creates unsafe conditions and potentially compromises the search effort. This meeting is also part of the agreed resolution to complaints filed by a search pilot and a news media helicopter pilot.

9. Quincy Airport Repaving to Begin

WSDOT Aviation is pleased to announce that Quincy Airport is beginning the process to rehabilitate its runway using state funds. The runway, which had deteriorated to substandard levels over the years, was one of the highest priorities for WSDOT Aviation's Airport Aid Grant Program. The runway will be paved 50 feet wide to accommodate the common aircraft types and uses at the airport. Quincy is not listed on the national plan of integrated airports system, which means it relies on state airport grants for capital improvements.